



# EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

June 21, 2011

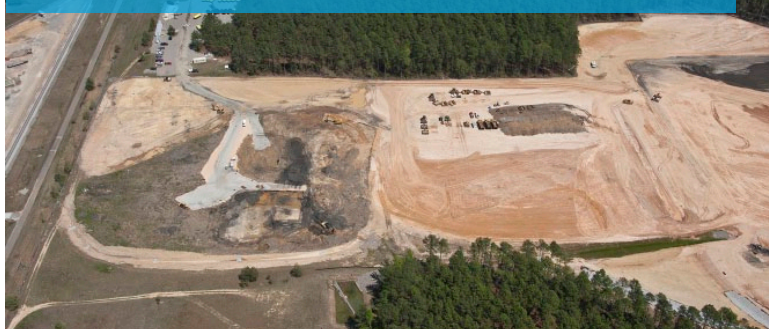
September 2010: P Ash Basin - Before



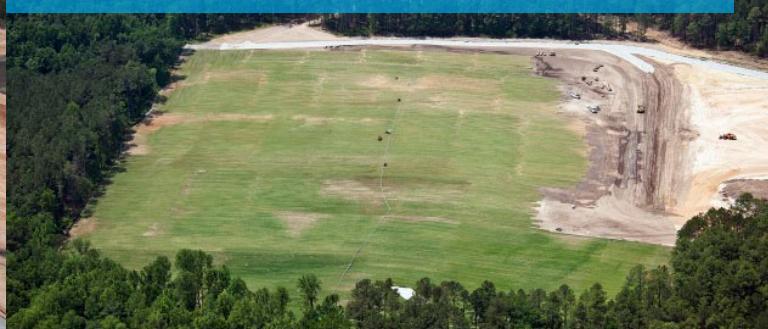
January 2011: P Ash Basin - During



April 2011: P Ash Basin - During



May 2011: P Ash Basin - After



## Recovery Act Workers Accomplish Cleanup of Second Cold War Coal Ash Basin

**AIKEN, S.C.** – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers recently cleaned up a second basin containing coal ash residues from Cold War operations at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

About \$24 million from the Recovery Act funded the environmental restoration project, allowing SRS to complete the project at least five years ahead of schedule. The work is part of a larger Recovery Act cleanup of the P Area scheduled for completion by the end of September 2011. The bulk of that cleanup involves deactivating and decommissioning a nuclear materials production reactor that occupies more than 300,000 square feet of space.

The P Area cleanup will reduce the Cold War footprint by 31 square miles, helping SRS achieve one of its primary Recovery Act goals:

reduce the legacy footprint of the 310-square-mile site by 75 percent by September 2012.

At the P Area Ash Basin, Recovery Act workers removed about 35 acres of vegetation on and around the 14-acre manmade earthen basin to prepare for remediation. Next, they consolidated ash inside the basin that had spread in the area from former P Area Powerhouse operations, which ended in 1991.

Workers then prepared a clean soil and sod cover, and planted seedlings. The vegetative layer prevents precipitation from infiltrating the basin's ash residues and entering the groundwater. About 1,500 feet of erosion-control fencing also was installed.

In late 2010, Recovery Act workers completed a similar cleanup of a basin containing coal ash residues left from the former R Area Powerhouse operations, which ended in 1964. That restoration effort was part of the R Area cleanup, which involves decommissioning the R Reactor. The R Area cleanup also is on schedule for completion by the end of September 2011.

For More Information on  
EM Recovery Act Work, Visit Us on the Web:

<http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery/>



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